ATLAS

ADVENTURES INTO WEIRD WORLDS

ADVENTURES INTO WEIRD WORLDS

SEPT.

NO. 22

10¢

ENTER THESE WEIRD WORLDS

"THE VAMPIRE'S PARTNER!"

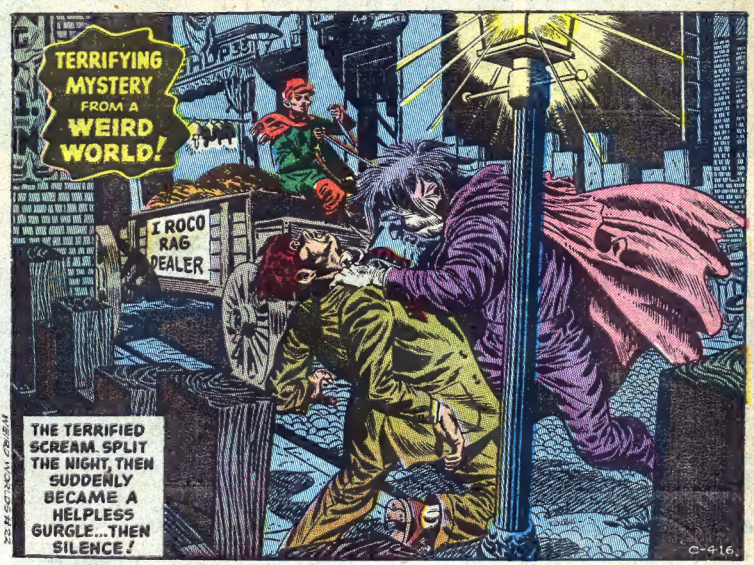
"KEEPER OF THE CATS!"

"OUT OF MY LIFE!"

ON SALE MONTHLY

PUT ON YOUR JET SUITS, KIDDIES, AND AWAY WE GO! SOMEDAY YOU MIGHT GO INTO BUSINESS FOR YOURSELF...IF YOU DO, BE VERY CAREFUL WHOM YOU SELECT AS A PARTNER! HE MIGHT BE A A CHEAT...A CONNIVING THIEF...WHO'S ONLY OUT TO GET *YOUR MONEY*...OR MAYBE SOMETHING *WORSE!*

THE VAMPIRE'S PARTNER


TERRIFYING MYSTERY FROM A WEIRD WORLD!
I ROCO RAG DEALER
THE TERRIFIED SCREAM SPLIT THE NIGHT, THEN SUDDENLY BECAME A HELPLESS GURGLE...THEN SILENCE!
C-9-16

YES! HE'S DEAD... NO MAN CAN LIVE WITHOUT BLOOD IN HIS VEINS!
IT'S BEEN A BAD DAY... I HAVEN'T COLLECTED MANY OLD CLOTHES OR RAGS!
Y-YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ME! WHO ARE YOU?
I AM ROCO, THE RAGMAN! I ONLY WANT TO TAKE THE DEAD MAN'S CLOTHES!
RAGMAN?... ONE MOMENT, ROCO,.. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
I'VE HAD A LONG DAY! I'M TOO TIRED FOR TALK!
WE COULD BE PARTNERS, ROCO! YOU HAVE TROUBLE COLLECTING OLD CLOTHES AND I HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING PEOPLE TO...ER... QUENCH MY THIRST!
YOU WANT ME TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO HOUSES, LET YOU IN... THEN YOU WILL GET BLOOD AND I'LL GET MY OLD CLOTHES!
I'LL GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY, ROCO! TAKE THIS WOODEN STAKE! IF I SHOULD TRY TO ATTACK YOU, THEN DRIVE IT INTO MY HEART! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KILL A VAMPIRE!
SO, THE VAMPIRE TOOK A PARTNER... AND THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...
I AM ROCO, THE RAGMAN... ANY OLD CLOTHES, MISTER... OLD RAGS?
I CAN'T BE BOTHERED AT THIS TIME OF THE NIGHT! COME BACK IN THE MORNING!
I MUST HAVE RAGS TONIGHT!
AND I MUST HAVE BLOOD!

AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
AHHH...THIS PARTNERSHIP OF OURS IS GOING TO WORK OUT JUST FINE, ROCO!
I AM HAPPY WITH IT!

SO THE STRANGE PARTNERS VISITED ANOTHER HOME...
BUT I HAVE NO OLD CLOTHES OR RAGS FOR YOU!
THEN I'LL HAVE THE ONES YOU'RE WEARING!

AND ANOTHER...

UNTIL THE RAGMAN'S WAGON COULD HOLD NO MORE!
PLEASE, ROCO, JUST ONE MORE TIME, THEN WE'LL GO HOME!
NO, IT IS ENOUGH FOR ONE NIGHT!

RELUCTANTLY, THE VAMPIRE RETURNED WITH ROCO TO HIS LONELY LITTLE SHACK!
YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT SOMETIME, ROCO! YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING!
I'M A RAGMAN! I ONLY CARE ABOUT COLLECTING RAGS! BLOOD MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME! WITHOUT IT, I CAN'T LIVE!
WELL, JUST DON'T TRY TO GET BLOOD FROM ME!

NOW WHY WOULD I DO THAT? WE'RE PARTNERS! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU, I'LL BE ON MY OWN AGAIN!
NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME!

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE JANGLING OF WAGON BELLS HERALDED THE APPROACH OF ROCO, THE RAGMAN, AND HIS DEADLY COMPANION...
ANY OLD CLOTHES, LADY...RAGS?
WHO IS IT, ELLA?
A RAGMAN, EDWARD!
AT THIS HOUR? LISTEN, I WOULDN'T LET HIM IN... ELLA! LOOK OUT...
EDWARD! HELP! IT'S A VAMPIRE!
I'LL KILL YOU... KILL YOU... KILL YOU!
NOT WITH BULLETS YOU WON'T!
HURRY! WE HAVE OTHER CALLS TO MAKE TONIGHT!
AT LAST, ONE NIGHT ROCO THE RAGMAN REFUSED TO LEAVE HIS SHACK...
THIS ISN'T FAIR, ROCO! YOU'RE MY PARTNER! YOU MUST HELP ME GET INTO HOMES!
WHAT WOULD I DO WITH ANY MORE OLD CLOTHES AND OLD RAGS? THERE'S HARDLY ENOUGH ROOM TO MOVE NOW! NO, I'M NOT GOING OUT WITH YOU!

YOU KNOW I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT BLOOD, ROCO!
ALRIGHT...GO OUT AND GET IT THE WAY YOU USED TO!
I DON'T HAVE TO GO OUT... NOT JUST YET!
I WOULDN'T DO THAT, PARTNER! I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE YOU!
SURE YOU DO, ROCO! YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T TRY TO HURT YOU, ANYHOW! I JUST THOUGHT I COULD SCARE YOU INTO GOING OUT WITH ME!
I'VE BEEN OUT LATE A LOT OF NIGHTS! THE ONLY PLACE I'M GOING IS TO BED!
SO ROCO WENT TO SLEEP... AND HIS VAMPIRE PARTNER WAITED TILL HE COULD NO LONGER BEAR HIS THIRST...
SLEEP... ROCO... AND SOON YOU WILL SLEEP FOREVER!
NOW, ROCO... IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING... MMMM...
ROCO! YOU'RE NOT HUMAN... YOU HAVE NO... B-BLOOD!
NO... I HAVEN'T ANY BLOOD!
I TOLD YOU... I'M A RAGMAN!
AAAAAAEEE
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

THE FATE OF HENRI ROLLAND

HENRI ROLLAND was an insatiable gambler. Every night you could find him standing around the gaming tables of Monte Carlo, sometimes winning a little . . . usually losing a great deal. Henri had inherited a sum of money, but it was not enough to satisfy his craving for a life of luxury. Henri had to have a suite of rooms at the best hotel in Cannes, eat at the most fashionable restaurants, and dress himself in the finest tailored suits. But Henri's inheritance was not big enough to grant him all these desires. So he hoped to triple his money at the gaming tables.

But Henri's luck had never been worse! In a few month's time, he had lost his small fortune, and one day came to the sudden realization that he was penniless. There was but one course open to the tall, handsome Frenchman...he must court a wealthy girl and marry her, and somehow gain possession of her fortune. But the wealthy young women were not blind to the obvious plan behind Henri's quick smiles and ready wit. They knew the marks of a fortune hunter.

Then, one day, an old countess came to Monte Carlo. The old woman was searching for the gaiety she had somehow missed by marrying a man much older than herself. In time, the old count had died, leaving his widow a great fortune. But what good would her wealth do her now? The countess was no longer young, and she had lost most of her early beauty. She was gray and wrinkled . . . and a foolish woman. For Henri Rolland courted the widow; he flattered her and made her think he had fallen madly in love with her. He escorted her everywhere. It was a veritable torture for Henri to be seen in public places with the old countess, for he noticed the whisperings and laughter behind his back. But the lure of her fortune was too much for him . . . and a few months after their first meeting, they were married quietly in the city hall.

His bride allowed Henri a certain sum of money each week . . . it was sufficient for him to spend his evenings at the gambling tables. If only he could win a fortune of his own, he kept thinking to himself, he could free himself of dependence on his loathesome wife! But Henri continued to win a little and to lose a lot.

Then, one day, the destiny of Henri Rolland took a new turn. At the casino he met a beautiful girl named Clotho. He fell madly in love with her, and he knew that his life would be empty and meaningless without her. He conversed with her, and could not help but notice her aloofness, although she did not actually discourage Henri. He attributed her attitude to the fact that he was a married man. So there was one thought, and one thought alone, which kept going through the schemer's mind . . . he must get rid of the old countess. It must be done in such a manner that her death would appear to be due to natural causes. Then he would be rid of a burdensome wife, and gain possession of her fortune as well!

So, over a period of time, Henri Rolland inserted small doses of arsenic into his wife's food. The old countess fell ill . . . and one night it was all over. She rose from the dinner table, deathly pale, clinging to her chair. But before she could take a step, she fell to the floor, quite dead! Henri, of course, played his role as the bereaved husband to perfection. The countess was buried in her family vault, and Henri at last held her fortune in his grasp. Now he was free to court the beautiful Clotho.

But Henri was not to get off so easily! It was hard for him to erase from his mind the final death throes of the countess, and for a while he was disturbed by terrifying nightmares in which the old countess' corpselike specter returned as if from her grave to stand beside his bed and taunt him and accuse him of arranging her death. His nights of terrifying sleep drove him often to the gaming tables, to seek out a few exciting hours of forgetfulness. Also, he now began to court Clotho actively. Henri was completely in love with the beauty, and he meant to have her as his wife. But there were times when, in spite of his great love for Clotho, Henri could not help noticing an ominous, inexplicable smile playing about her mouth when they were together.

Then, one day, Clotho gave indication that she was considering his courtship in a favorable light, for she invited Henri to her home. It was an old mansion, built high on a cliff overlooking the sea. When Henri

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

FAT FOLKS! *Your Dream Has Come True!*

How to Lose UGLY FAT Without Dieting – Hunger!

- NO DIET
- NO EXERCISE
- NO "METHODS"
- NO "PLANS"
- NO DRUGS

DOCTORS
approve and recommend MELTABS because it contains no drugs. The formula is the discovery of a group of New York associated doctors connected with one of New York's leading hospitals.

If you are a normal, healthy, overweight man or woman by all means read about this amazing, now, clinically tested medical discovery that is already creating a sensation all over the country.

Forget all about diets, hunger, calorie counting, massage, drugs, exercise and all other unpleasant, unnecessary things usually associated with reducing.

For a great medical discovery now makes it possible for you to lose pounds of excess fat safely — *without dieting, without having a single hungry moment.*

Doctors Discover Meltabs

Most doctors agree that the best way to lose excess fat is to eat less — so, go on a restricted diet. A group of New York doctors, making a special study of obesity, realized however, that while dieting was desirable it wasn't as easy or as simple as it sounds for most overweight people.

Men: Why not try MELTABS, the natural way to take off excess weight that's neither good for you nor good to look at

Meltabs has been clinically tested by doctors connected with one of New York's largest hospitals.

Hunger — The Fat Person's Enemy!

Dieting for most folks means hunger. And few people can resist hunger. So they appease it by eating between meals, by going off their diets. And back come the unwanted pounds and inches.

So these New York doctors worked for years searching for a formula that would lick hunger and make people lose fat safely, *without dieting.* They finally announced success in a food adjunct called MELTABS.

Clinical Tests Proved Their Discovery

The doctors clinically tested MELTABS on a large group of non-glandular overweight men and women.

The group undergoing the tests were instructed by the doctors to chew or suck a tasty MELTABS before each meal, but not to go on any special diet, not to cut out any special foods — just sit down at the table and eat until satisfied.

Results Amazing

Every member of the group lost 8 to 20 pounds in a short period of time, in fact satisfactory weight losses were noticed the very first week. And not a single person said she had a hungry moment.

Meltabs as Harmless as Water
A food adjunct — not a drug

During the tests the doctors carefully checked the physical condition of each member of the group, took electro-cardiograms, and did not find a single case of ill effect. Everyone said she never felt better. So at last, the fat person's dream has come true — a way to lose excess fat without dieting, without hunger, without giving up the foods she likes.

Start slimming down your figure. Get MELTABS today. $3 for a month's supply. GUARANTEE: If you aren't pleased with the weight you lost after using one bottle of MELTABS you get your money back.

How Meltabs Prevents Overeating — Hunger

According to scientific calculations, one Meltabs wafer has the hunger satisfying capacity of 1 lb. boiled potatoes, or 5 slices white bread, or 4 eggs — yet it contains only 5 calories.

MAIL COUPON NOW!

ROBIN PRODUCTS CO., Dept. MC8
26 East 46th St., New York 17, N. Y.

Send me 30 Day Supply of MELTABS.
I enclose $3.00 for postpaid delivery. ☐
Send C. O. D. — I will pay postman $3.00 plus postal charges. ☐

NAME _____

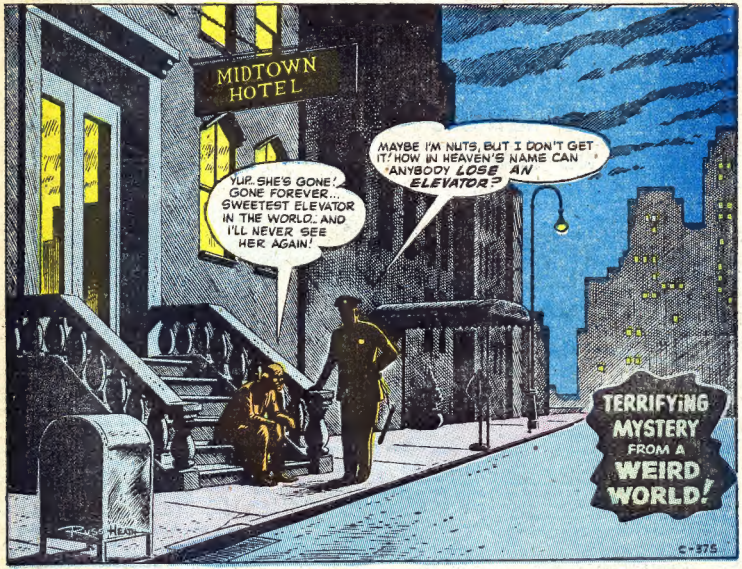
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

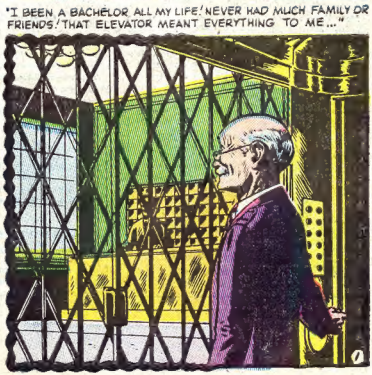
Your money back if you don't LOSE WEIGHT

SEEMS THE **RAGMAN** WAS SOMEWHAT OF A STUFFED SHIRT... IN FACT, **HE** WAS STUFFED ALL OVER! NOW LET'S CONSIDER THE CASE OF OLD JEFF... A MAN WHO HAD HIS UPS AND DOWNS! IF **YOU** HAD HIS JOB, YOU MIGHT FIND IT DULL AND MONOTONOUS! BUT NOT **THIS** OLD BOY! HE'S **CRAZY** ABOUT IT!

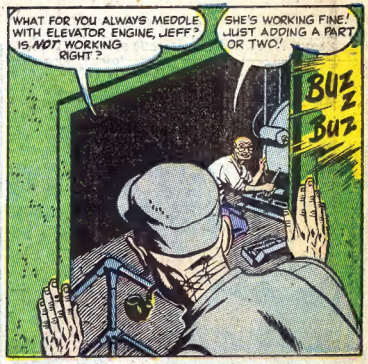
THE MAN WHO LOST AN ELEVATOR


MIDTOWN HOTEL
YUP. SHE'S GONE! GONE FOREVER... SWEETEST ELEVATOR IN THE WORLD.. AND I'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN!
MAYBE I'M NUTS, BUT I DON'T GET IT! HOW IN HEAVEN'S NAME CAN ANYBODY **LOSE AN ELEVATOR?**
TERRIFYING MYSTERY FROM A WEIRD WORLD!
C-375

THIS WASN'T AN ORDINARY ELEVATOR, CLANCY! I'D BEEN RIDIN' HER FORTY YEARS BEFORE SHE GOT LOST.. AND YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR IT...SHE WAS THE SMOOTHEST-RUNNIN', STRONGEST-ENGINED, BRIGHTEST-SHININ' ELEVATOR ON LAND OR SEA...



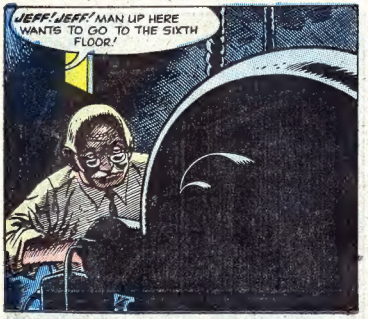
YOU'D THINK THAT CRUMMY OLD CAGE WAS A WEDDING RING OR SOMETHING...THE WAY OLD JEFF KEEPS POLISHING HER!
I DROPPED A CHEWING GUM WRAPPER IN IT THE OTHER DAY, AND HE ALMOST CROWNED ME!


WHAT FOR YOU ALWAYS MEDDLE WITH ELEVATOR ENGINE, JEFF? IS *NOT* WORKING RIGHT?
SHE'S WORKING FINE! JUST ADDING A PART OR TWO!
BUZZ BUZ

"NICE MAN, MR. PRENTICE...HE'S THE MANAGER! IF FOLKS HAD TO WAIT A MINUTE OR TWO BECAUSE I WAS WORKING DOWN BELOW, MR. PRENTICE ALWAYS SMOOTHED THINGS OVER..."

"BUT SOMETIMES IT TOOK A LITTLE LONGER FOR ME TO COME... EVEN WHEN MR. PRENTICE CALLED! I HAD SO MANY GADGETS ON THE ENGINE, SHE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL A SHIP..."

"A DAY DIDN'T GO BY WITHOUT FOLKS JOSHIN' ABOUT THE ELEVATOR..."



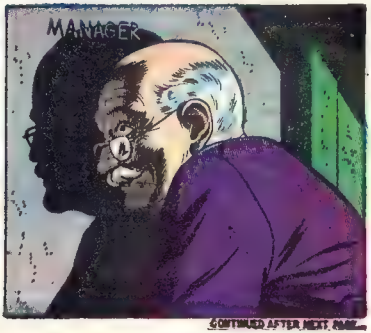
"NOBODY EVER TOUCHED THE CONTROLS BUT ME! I NEVER TOOK DAYS OFF JUST SO THEY WOULDN'T WHEN I SLEPT, I LOCKED IT UP..THE NIGHT MAN USED THE ELEVATOR DOWN THE HALL..."

"I NEVER HAD ANY REAL COMPLAINTS UNTIL MR. GARROT MOVED INTO THE SUITE ON THE TOP FLOOR..."

DO YOU CALL THIS SERVICE! WHEN'RE YOU GONNA TRADE THAT CREAKING RATTRAP IN FOR A MODERN ELEVATOR?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN', SIR! THERE AIN'T AN ELEVATOR AROUND THAT CAN MATCH THIS!

WISE GUY, EH? WELL...NO CRAZY, OLD TINHORN'S GONNA SHOOT HIS MOUTH OFF TO ME, AND GET AWAY WITH IT! TAKE ME DOWN TO THE MANAGER'S OFFICE AS FAST AS THIS HEAP OF JUNK WILL GO!

"I LOCKED THE ELEVATOR. THEN LEANED MY EAR AGAINST MR PRENTICE'S DOOR! IT WAS A REAL PLEASURE TO HEAR WHAT WAS GOING ON..."



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"THIS IS HOW MANY NOTCHES I WAS ABLE TO TAKE IN *AFTER PUTTING ON THE* COMMANDER"

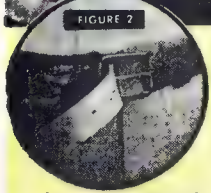


FIGURE 2

Men, here's the quick, easy way to a trim, streamlined appearance. Do away with bulging, paunchy, flabby, overgrown waistline look . . . without the annoyance of strenuous exercise *or* dieting.

NO WAITING FOR RESULTS— "COMMANDER" ACTS *Instantly!*

Just try the "COMMANDER"—you'll see and feel the difference at *once. Instantly* you take on a slim, athletic look. Sagging muscles and bulges are gently but firmly constricted. Your clothes fit as they should. Why appear old before your time?

YOU *LOOK* NEW!

"COMMANDER" COMPRESSES THE EXTENDED ABDOMEN FIRMLY AND GENTLY!

The "COMMANDER" gently compresses your abdomen to make you look better . . . feel younger. When you wear the Commander your stomach is flattened, but the "COMMANDER" is so comfortable you'll hardly know you're wearing it! That's because "COMMANDER" doesn't contain a single strap, buckle or lace . . . and no rib-sticking steel braces to cause you discomfort. Once you put on the "COMMANDER" you'll notice a quickness to your step, a sparkle in your eyes.

YOU *FEEL* NEW!

TEST THE "COMMANDER" YOURSELF—NOW!

Clasp your hands over abdomen, as in Fig. 1 (at right) and press up and in. This is the trademarked, interlocking hands principle of the "COMMANDER". Feel good? NOW—note the results, as in Fig. 2 (at top). You'll take in notches on your belt . . . you'll feel slimmer . . . look better . . . back is held together . . . the moment you put on this amazing "COMMANDER" Belt. But why wait another day. We guarantee results or no cost!

FIGURE 1

YOU *ARE* LIKE NEW!

TRY 10 DAYS AT OUR EXPENSE!

We are so sure that you will be delighted with the "COMMANDER" that we are making a special money-back offer. Try the "COMMANDER" for 10 full days, *at our expense.* If it doesn't do all we claim . . . if you don't feel better, look younger, appear slimmer—*instantly* . . . if you aren't 100% satisfied with the results, simply return the "COMMANDER" to us and your purchase price will be completely refunded. But don't delay . . . send for your amazing "COMMANDER" Belt TODAY . . . ACT NOW!

SEND NO MONEY, MAIL COUPON NOW!

10 DAY TRIAL COUPON

WARD GREEN CO., Dept P-279
113 W. 57th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

Rush the "COMMANDER" Belt, in Plain Wrapper, for 10-day trial. I'll pay the postman $2.98 plus postage charges. If not thrilled with the results, I may return in 10 days for a full refund of purchase price.

(Special Large Waist Sizes 48-60 $4.98.)

MY WAIST-MEASURE IS_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone____ State_____

☐ I enclose $2.98 ($5.98 for sizes 48-60). Ward Green Company pays postage. Same refund guarantee holds.

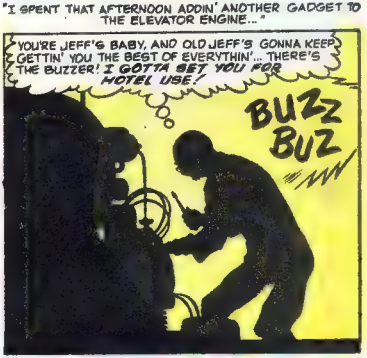
☐ Also send _____ extra stretch pieces. (75¢ each, 3 for $2.)

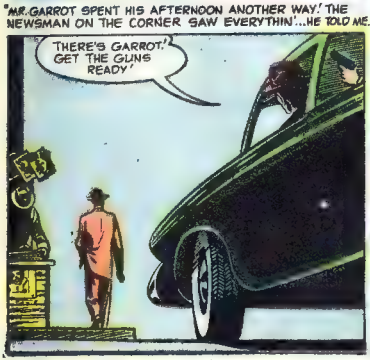
Reg. U. S. Patent Office

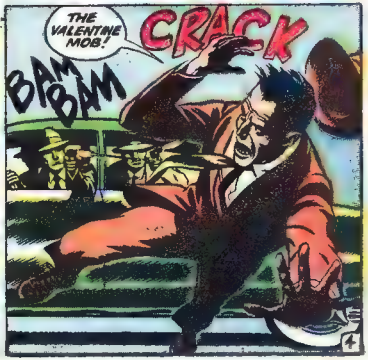
I'D GO SLOW AROUND HERE IF I WERE YOU, MR. GARROT! THE HOTEL DOESN'T CONSIDER YOU TOO DESIRABLE.. AND WE'D WELCOME ANY CHANCE TO BREAK YOUR LEASE! THE ITEM OF THAT BULLETPROOF DOOR YOU'VE INSTALLED AND THE ITEM OF YOUR CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN... ER... UNSAVORY RACKETS...

AS FOR JEFF HAYCOX.. HE'S A PERMANENT FIXTURE IN THIS HOTEL! JEFF'S A LITTLE SET IN HIS WAYS... BUT WE LIKE HIM... THAT'S ALL.. MR GARROT! GOOD MORNING!

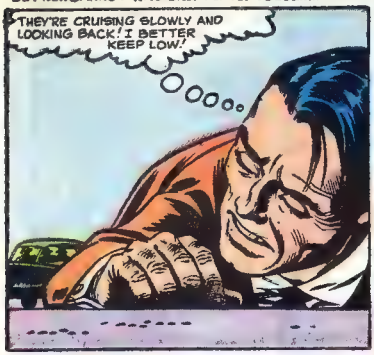
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU EAT THOSE WORDS! NOBODY CROSSES ROY GARROT AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!


"I SPENT THAT AFTERNOON ADDIN' ANOTHER GADGET TO THE ELEVATOR ENGINE..."
YOU'RE JEFF'S BABY, AND OLD JEFF'S GONNA KEEP GETTIN' YOU THE BEST OF EVERYTHIN'... THERE'S THE BUZZER! I GOTTA SET YOU FOR HOTEL USE!
BUZZ BUZ

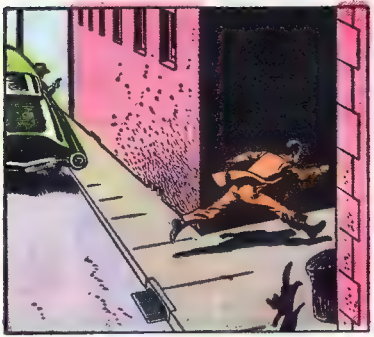

"MR. GARROT SPENT HIS AFTERNOON ANOTHER WAY! THE NEWSMAN ON THE CORNER SAW EVERYTHIN'... HE TOLD ME..."
THERE'S GARROT! GET THE GUNS READY!

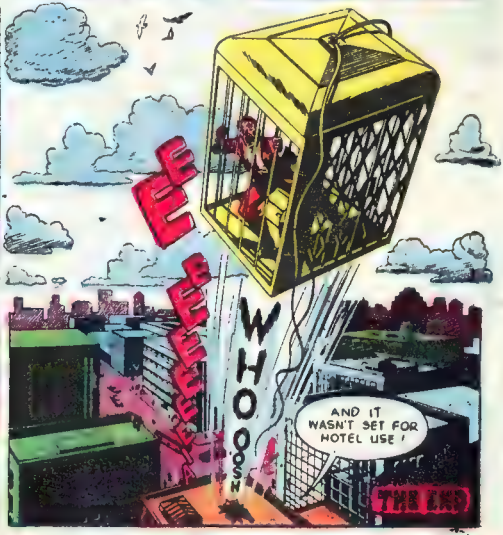

THE VALENTINE MOB!
CRACK
BAM BAM
4

"BUT MR. GARROT WAS ONLY PLAYIN' POSSUM..."



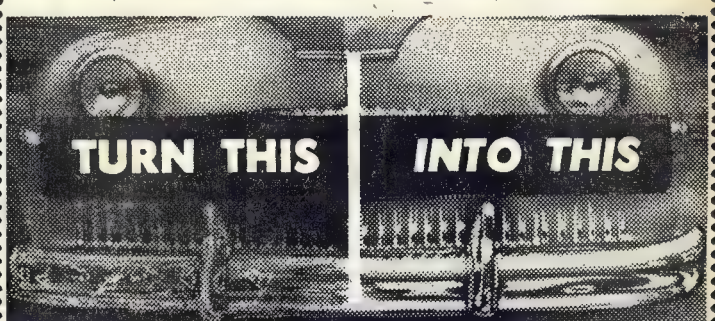
"BUT BEFORE THEY COULD NAIL HIM, MR. GARROT RAN INTO THE NEAREST ALLEY"...





ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

At Last! A CHROME RESTORER *THAT WORKS!*



Amazing new 2-way chrome protector wipes away rust—pits—corrosion—in just 2 minutes! Stop rust from forming! Keep chrome mirror-bright! Now keep your bumpers, grillwork, window-frames, all chrome on your car sparkling bright as the day you bought it! Keep it rust-free for life! No matter how badly pitted or scarred, this sensational new 2-Way Chrome Protector wipes it Mirror-Bright, prevents new rust and corrosion from forming! **Complete Kit only $2.00**

Complete Chrome Protector Kit containing: 1—Bottle of RUST REMOVER chemical with special applicator. Enough to remove all rust from car. 2—Can of PROTECTOR chrome rust preventer and applicator. Enough for years of safe protection.

ONE APPLICATION LASTS ENTIRE SEASON—gives you safe, foolproof protection against vicious biting erosions of **SALT AIR—SUN—RAIN—SLEET—etc.**

101 USES

- Household Appliances
- Automobiles • Bicycles
- Sporting Equipment
- Boats • Home Utilities

RESULTS ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED OR MONEY BACK! Enclose $2, check or money order with your name and address.

H. SEARS INDUSTRIES, INC.

799 Broadway, Dept. C-478, New York 3, N. Y.

...CONTINUED

entered the house, he was startled to see grotesque tapestries hanging on the walls of the rooms. These tapestries showed scenes of people dying in various macabre ways... hanging, suicide, stabbing, strangulation. Henri wondered why the beautiful Clotho should occupy her time with such weird creations, for it was *she* who had woven these tapestries.

Then Henri was due for another surprise. Clotho introduced her two sisters... Lachesis, "who supplies me with the thread for my tapestry weaving", and Atropos, "who tells me when my tapestry is finished and cuts the thread from the spool". Thus Henri was aware that all three sisters had a role in the creation of each tapestry.

"I am even now working on my latest work of art," Clotho said. Henri's curiosity was aroused, and he begged the girl he loved to show him this work in progress. But her answer was evasive and cryptic.

"You shall see it when it is completed, but not before," she said.

When it was time to leave his hostess and her sisters for the night, Clotho asked him to return in three days. For, she said, the latest tapestry would be completed and she wanted to show it to him... it held a definite interest for him. Perplexed by her mysterious words, Henri bade the trio good night and went home. His sleep was very fretful for him that night. Nightmarish images kept intruding into his slumber. The specter of his murdered wife was intermingled with the image of Clotho, and they seemed to be laughing at him.

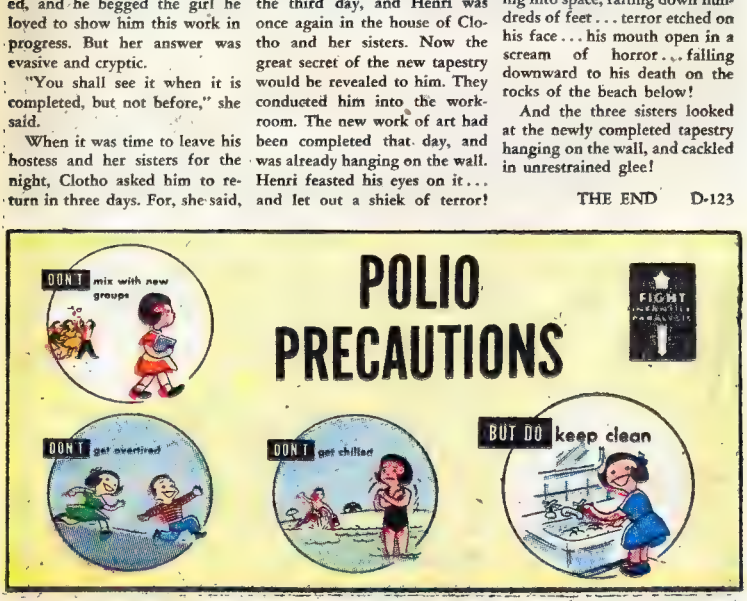
Henri awakened at dawn with the images of his nightmare still fresh in his mind. And now one thought kept recurring... what is on that new tapestry that Clotho would reveal to his gaze in three days? To erase the troubling thought from his mind, Henri spent the next few days in drinking, and the evenings in gambling at the casino.

At last it was the evening of the third day, and Henri was once again in the house of Clotho and her sisters. Now the great secret of the new tapestry would be revealed to him. They conducted him into the workroom. The new work of art had been completed that day, and was already hanging on the wall. Henri feasted his eyes on it... and let out a shiek of terror! For it portrayed Henri Rolland himself, falling from a high cliff, with terror etched on his face, his mouth open in a soundless scream! He turned to Clotho to demand an explanation... but what he saw then left him speechless! Before his horrified eyes, the three sisters suddenly transformed into three ugly, old hags. And it was then that Henri realized who they were... *they* were the Three Weird Fates!

They had done their work well, for they had started on Henri's tapestry as soon as evil had entered his heart... the evil of coverting the old countess' fortune... the evil of murdering her. There was still one more act to be played in the drama. And as sure as Fate had destined it, Henri Rolland fled in fear from the house. But in his agitation, he had run out the back door, only to find himself lunging into space, falling down hundreds of feet... terror etched on his face... his mouth open in a scream of horror... falling downward to his death on the rocks of the beach below!

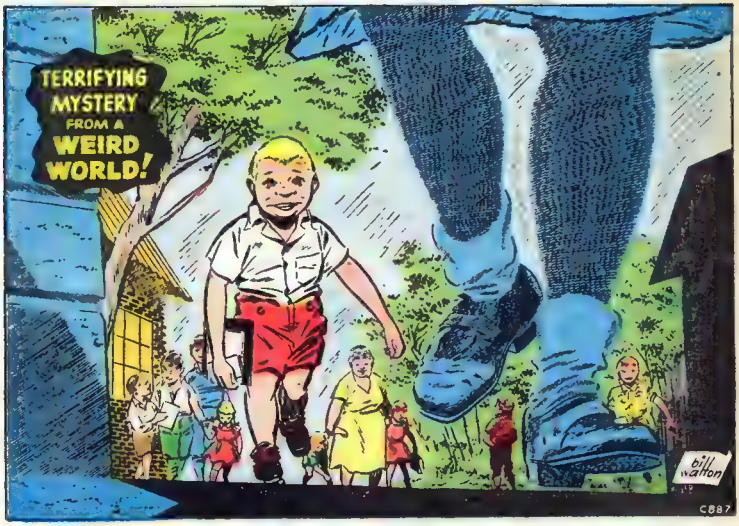
And the three sisters looked at the newly completed tapestry hanging on the wall, and cackled in unrestrained glee!

THE END D-123



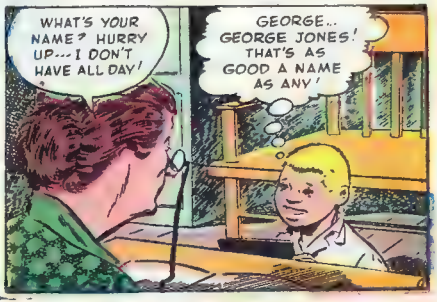
THE CROOK IS A HIGHFLIER, EH? HE'S DUE FOR A **SHOCK** WHEN HE COMES DOWN TO EARTH! CAN **YOU** REMEMBER YOUR FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL EACH FALL? KIND'A EXCITING, WASN'T IT? THAT'S THE WAY IT IS FOR **THIS** LITTLE FELLOW! TOO BAD HE'S HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE WITH HIS CLASSMATES!

THE NEW BOY



THIS IS YOUR FIRST DAY IN SCHOOL! YOU ENTER SLOWLY, MADE WARY BY THE CLAMOR OF REGISTRATION DAY...

YOU HAD FEARED THEY'D ASK FOR YOUR PARENTS OR WHERE YOU'D GONE TO SCHOOL BEFORE. BUT IN ALL THIS DIN AND CONFUSION, A KANGAROO COULD APPLY FOR ADMISSION AND NO ONE WOULD KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!



SO YOUR NAME IS GEORGE JONES AND YOU'RE IN THE FOURTH GRADE... AND WHEN YOU COME TO SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY, THE FIRST PERIOD IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION...

NOW LET THE NEW BOY GET A CHANCE!

THEY MUST NEVER KNOW HOW STRONG I **REALLY** AM!

YOU FLING YOURSELF UP AT THE BAR, MISS PURPOSELY AND FALL!

SHHH! DON'T MAKE FUN! HE'S PROBABLY NEVER TRIED A BAR BEFORE!

AFTER THAT THE TEACHER KEEPS WATCHING YOU COLDLY... BUT YOU'RE AT YOUR DESK NOW! THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL EXCEL! THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL MAKE THEM RESPECT YOUR GREAT GENIUS!

NOW, CHILDREN, JUST TO MAKE SURE YOUR BRAINS DIDN'T GET TOO RUSTY OVER THE SUMMER VACATION, HERE ARE SOME VERY SIMPLE PROBLEMS IN ADDITION...

YOU STARE AT THE WEIRD CHALK SCRAWLINGS ON THE BLACK SLATE IN FRONT OF THE ROOM! YOUR BROW KNITS PUZZLEDLY...

YOU'VE NEVER LEARNED NUMBERS! THEY MEAN NOTHING TO YOU! SUDDENLY YOU SENSE THE TEACHER'S COLD STARE, AND YOUR PENCIL BEGINS SCRIBBLING FRANTICALLY ON THE PAGE OF YOUR COPY BOOK...

SHE SENSES SOMETHING IS WRONG! SHE'S WALKING QUICKLY TO YOUR DESK! SHE SNATCHES THE COPY BOOK FROM YOUR HAND!

AND THEN YOU HEAR IT FOR THE FIRST TIME! **THE WORD** THAT SENDS THE BLOOD RUSHING TO YOUR HEAD IN A GEYSER OF RAGE!

DUNCE!

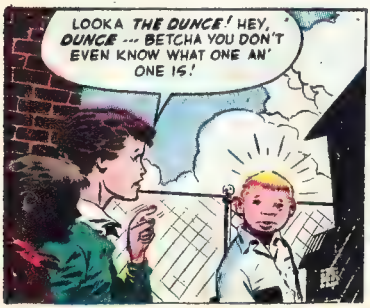
A BOY YOUR AGE NOT EVEN TO KNOW HOW TO ADD! YOU'VE BEEN SITTING IN THE WRONG SEAT, YOUNG MAN! FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE GOING TO OCCUPY...

THE DUNCE SEAT!

DUNCE

I'M A GENIUS... HOW CAN SHE DO THIS TO ME? I'M A **GENIUS!**

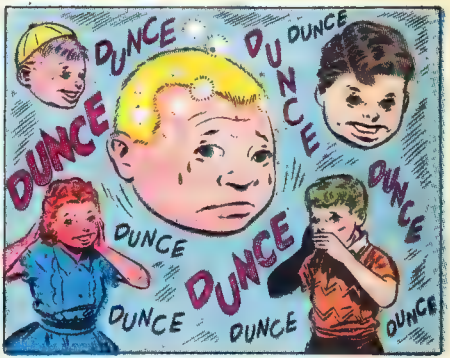
AND THAT'S WHERE YOU SIT TILL 3 O'CLOCK! YOU'RE OUTSIDE NOW, HEADED FOR HOME, WHEN SUDDENLY ...



COMING AFTER THE INDIGNITIES OF THE DAY, THAT WORD IS THE SPARK THAT SETS OFF AN EXPLOSION OF RAGE INSIDE OF YOU! YOU SPRING FORWARD AND...

LUCKY YOU DIDN'T THROW HIM TOO HARD.. NO BONES ARE BROKEN...

WAAA! JUST YOU WAIT TILL MY BIG BRUDDER GETS OUTTA JAIL! I'M GONNA TELL HIM WHAT YOU DONE TO ME ... AN' HE'LL BREAK YOUR NECK!!
I MUST NEVER DO THAT AGAIN! THEY MUST NEVER KNOW HOW STRONG I REALLY AM!



IF NOT FOR YOUR PARENTS, YOU'D HAVE QUIT LONG AGO! BUT YOUR PARENTS HAVE SO MUCH FAITH IN YOU--THEY KNOW YOU'RE A GENIUS! STILL...YOU'RE GLAD WHENEVER 3 O'CLOCK COMES AROUND...

... AND YOU CAN LEAVE ALL THE JEERS AND TAUNTS BEHIND YOU AND WALK QUIETLY HOME THRU SHADOWY STREETS! BUT ONE DAY...

MY KID BRÜDDER TOLD ME WHAT YOU DONE TO HIM! THROWED HIM CLEAR ACROSS THE SCHOOL YARD, HUH? WELL, HERE I AM, OUTTA JAIL, AN' I'M GONNA TEACH YOU TO KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF!!

HE COMES TOWARD YOU, A RAISED BLACK-JACK IN HIS GNARLED FIST...

HE KEEPS MOVING FORWARD! HIS EYES ARE GLEAMING WITH THE LUST TO BEAT AND MAIM! VERY SLOWLY, YOU PLACE YOUR BOOKS ON THE GROUND...

AND THEN WHEN YOU TEAR OFF YOUR SHIRT TO GIVE YOUR POWERFUL ARMS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT...

...HIS EYES BULGE WITH HORROR ... AND HIS BODY SAGS WITH FEAR!!

MOMENTS LATER... YOUR SHIRT IS BACK ON AND YOU ARE RUNNING SWIFTLY AWAY FROM HIS LIFELESS BODY...

YOU'RE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME NOW! YOU UNDRESS WHERE NO ONE CAN SEE YOU...

NOW YOU'RE INSIDE... YOUR PARENTS GREET YOU WARMLY! THEY'RE THE ONES WHO WANTED YOU TO GO TO SCHOOL --- THE ONES WHO RECOGNIZED YOUR **GENIUS** WHEN YOU FIRST LEARNED TO **SPEAK!** BUT NOW... WHEN THEY HEAR WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

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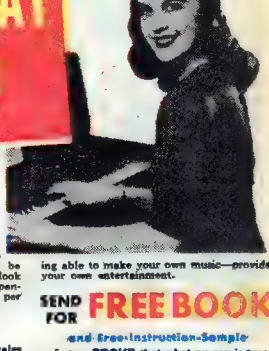
I'VE LEARNED TO PLAY SO QUICKLY MY FRIENDS ARE SIMPLY AMAZED!



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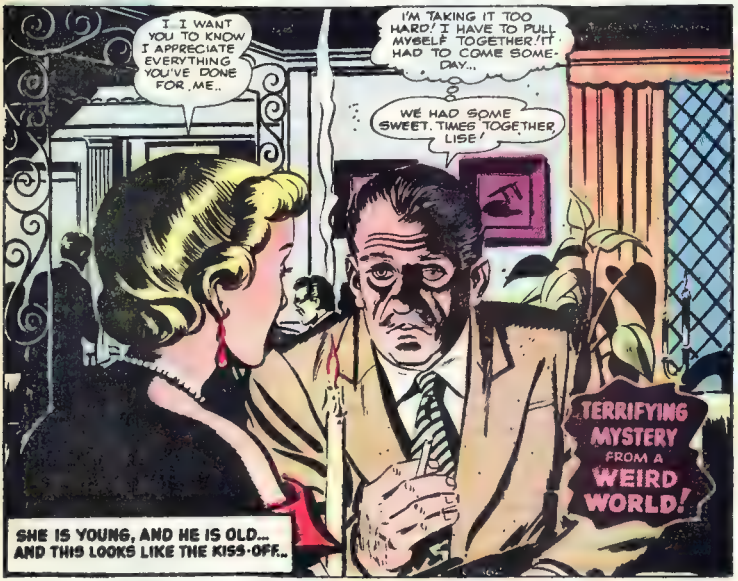
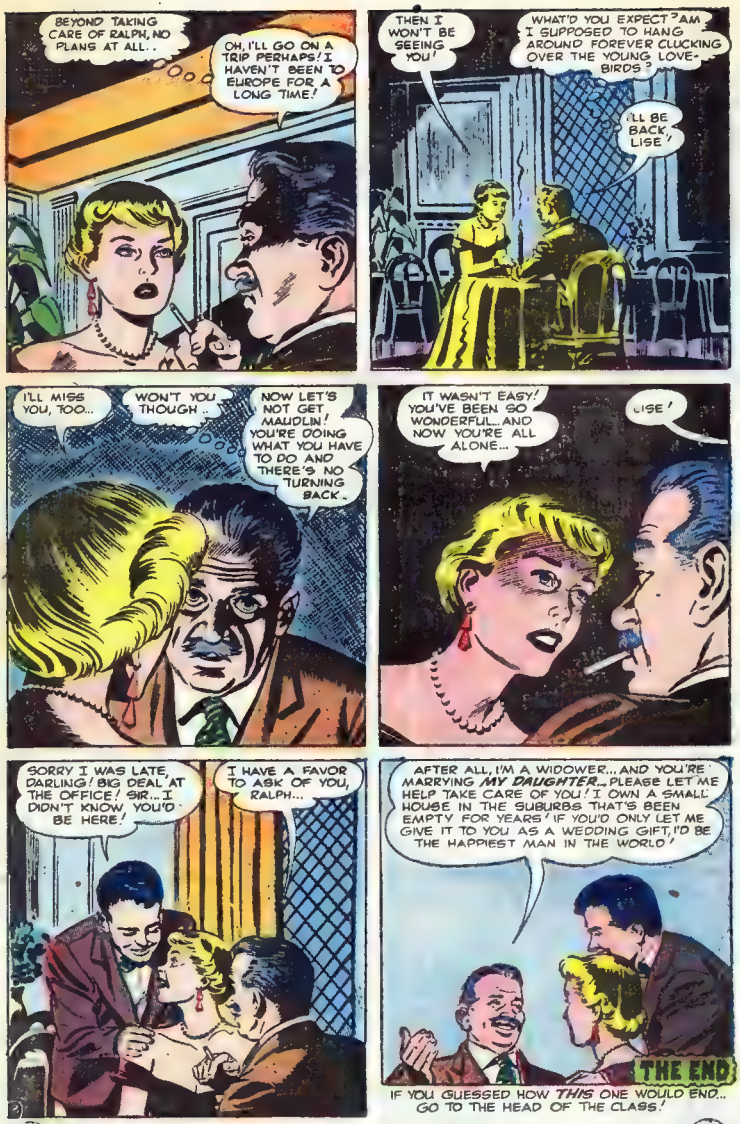
OUT OF MY LIFE!


I..I WANT YOU TO KNOW I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME..
I'M TAKING IT TOO HARD! I HAVE TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER! IT HAD TO COME SOMEDAY...
WE HAD SOME SWEET TIMES TOGETHER, LISE!
TERRIFYING MYSTERY FROM A WEIRD WORLD!
SHE IS YOUNG, AND HE IS OLD... AND THIS LOOKS LIKE THE KISS-OFF..

PLEASE SMILE.. JUST ONCE! YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING SO GRIM EVER SINCE I TOLD YOU ABOUT RALPH!
I'M TRYING TO ACT NONCHALANT.. BUT I CAN'T! I.. I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO HAPPEN SO SOON!

NOT EVEN A LAST DRINK TOGETHER. SHE HAS TO WAIT FOR RALPH...
I'LL HAVE A MARTINI!
TELL ME THE TRUTH... IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?
WHAT SHOULD BE THE MATTER?
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING, PLANNING SOMETHING... I'VE KNOWN YOU LONG ENOUGH! I CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN THE WHEELS ARE WHIZZING AROUND IN YOUR HEAD!
DOES SHE SUSPECT THAT I AM GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS CHARMING RALPH OF HERS? I DIDN'T WANT HER TO KNOW UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON! NOTHING LIKE A SURPRISE GIFT FOR A YOUNG LADY WHO'S WALKING OUT OF YOUR LIFE!
YOUR DRINK, SIR!
YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED ME!
MAY YOU BE GLORIOUSLY HAPPY AS LONG AS YOU AND RALPH ARE TOGETHER!
THANKS .. BUT PLEASE . I'M WORRIED!
JUST A SPOT OF THE BLUES! I'D BE LYING, LISE, IF I SAID THAT I'M NOT GOING TO MISS YOU...
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?


BEYOND TAKING CARE OF RALPH, NO PLANS AT ALL..
OH, I'LL GO ON A TRIP PERHAPS! I HAVEN'T BEEN TO EUROPE FOR A LONG TIME!
THEN I WON'T BE SEEING YOU!
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT? AM I SUPPOSED TO HANG AROUND FOREVER CLUCKING OVER THE YOUNG LOVE-BIRDS?
I'LL BE BACK, LISE!
I'LL MISS YOU, TOO...
WON'T YOU THOUGH..
NOW LET'S NOT GET MAUDLIN! YOU'RE DOING WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO AND THERE'S NO TURNING BACK.
IT WASN'T EASY! YOU'VE BEEN SO WONDERFUL... AND NOW YOU'RE ALL ALONE...
LISE!
SORRY I WAS LATE, DARLING! BIG DEAL AT THE OFFICE! SIR... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE HERE!
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU, RALPH...
AFTER ALL, I'M A WIDOWER... AND YOU'RE MARRYING MY DAUGHTER... PLEASE LET ME HELP TAKE CARE OF YOU! I OWN A SMALL HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS THAT'S BEEN EMPTY FOR YEARS! IF YOU'D ONLY LET ME GIVE IT TO YOU AS A WEDDING GIFT, I'D BE THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD!
THE END

IF YOU GUESSED HOW *THIS* ONE WOULD END... GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS!

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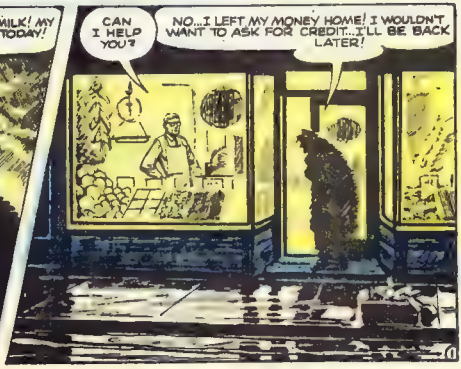
KEEPER OF CATS!



DOWN A NARROW, DARK SIDE STREET THE OLD SHOPLIFTER SHUFFLES, THEN SLOWLY MOUNTS A RICKETY STAIRCASE TO THE TOP FLOOR OF A DECAYING BROWNSTONE..

I DID ALL RIGHT FOR MY DARLINGS! THEY'LL BE GLAD TO SEE ME!

THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN...A PURRING BABBLE GREETS HER FROM A MANGY HORDE OF MOTTLED CATS...

HERE, KITTIES, KITTIES! MILK!

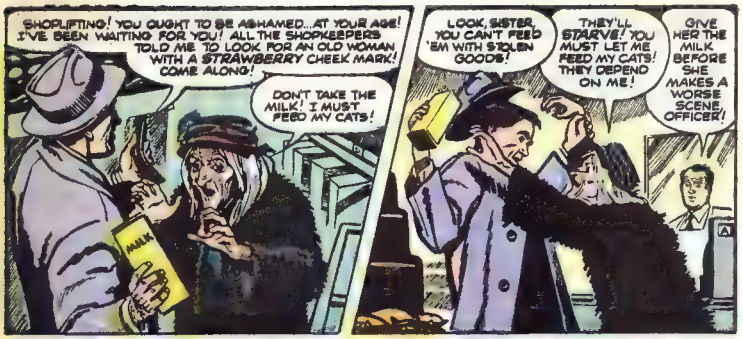
WITH FEROCIOUS GREED, THE SEMI-STARVED CATS CROWD THE MILK DISH, JOSTLING ONE ANOTHER IN THEIR HUNGER...

AREN'T YOU GOING TO LET ME SHARE YOUR MEAL WITH YOU? YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO STARVE, WOULD YOU?

THE NEXT DAY THE OLD WOMAN CONTINUES HER ROUNDS, HER GNARLED FINGERS WAITING FOR THE RIGHT SECOND TO POUNCE...

NO ONE SAW ME!

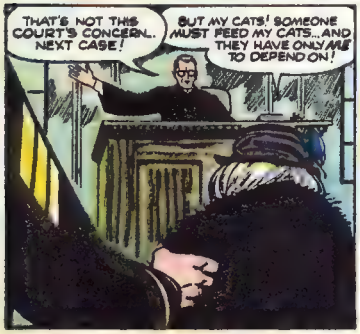
DROP IT!

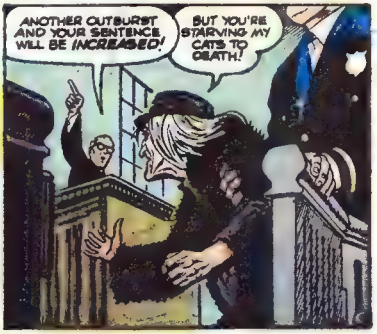

SHOPLIFTING! YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED...AT YOUR AGE! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! ALL THE SHOPKEEPERS TOLD ME TO LOOK FOR AN OLD WOMAN WITH A STRAWBERRY CHEEK MARK! COME ALONG!
DON'T TAKE THE MILK! I MUST FEED MY CATS!
MILK
LOOK, SISTER, YOU CAN'T FEED 'EM WITH STOLEN GOODS!
THEY'LL STARVE! YOU MUST LET ME FEED MY CATS! THEY DEPEND ON ME!
GIVE HER THE MILK BEFORE SHE MAKES A WORSE SCENE, OFFICER!
A

WITH THE OFFICER AT HER SIDE, THE ANCIENT HAG ENTERS HER ROOM AND POURS THE MILK...

LOOK, SISTER, I'M A BUSY MAN! LET THE GREEN-EYED MONSTERS GORGE THEMSELVES IN PRIVATE!
NO! DON'T TAKE ME YET! THEY HAVEN'T LICKED MY HANDS IN THANKS! WAIT TILL THEY THANK ME!

BUT THE OFFICER DRAGS HER TO COURT AND QUICKLY STATES THE CASE...





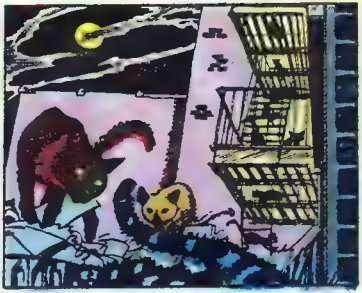
TWO DAYS PASS SLOWLY AS THE SICK WOMAN WITH THE STRAWBERRY CHEEK MARK LANGUISHES IN JAIL...

MY CATS... SOMEONE MUST FEED MY CATS! I'LL GIVE YOU MY HOUSE KEY! TAKE MY MILK TO THEM!
JUST THE MENTION OF CATS IS ENOUGH TO GIVE ME GOOSE PIMPLES! I HATE THOSE LOATHSOME CREATURES!

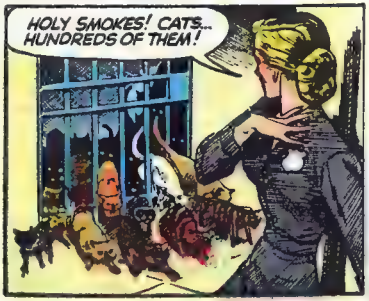
AND BY THE FOURTH DAY, DESPERATION DRIVES THE STARVING CATS TO A WILD FURY OF CLAWING AS THEY PAW THE WALLS AND DOORS...

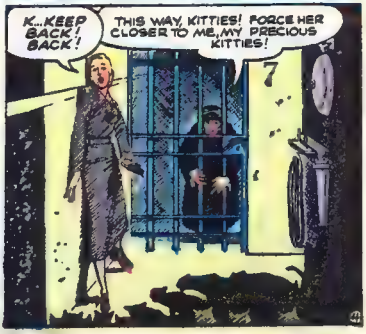
SUDDENLY, ONE FURIOUS CAT HURLS HIMSELF AGAINST A WINDOW, SHATTERING THE GLASS WITH A LOUD CRASH!

THE OTHERS QUICKLY LEAP THRU THE BROKEN WINDOW IN A MAD DRIVE FOR FOOD!



WITH FANTASTIC INSTINCT, THE CATS RACE DOWN THE WINDING STREETS TO THE JAIL AND SPRING INSIDE...





SLAWS SLASH FOR THE FRIGHTENED TURNKEY'S FACE AS SHE DRAWS BACK IN TERROR FROM THE CIRCLE OF HUNCHED, LEAPING CATS...

GET OFF ME! GET AWAY!

THE KEYS! KEEP HER ON THE FLOOR, KITTIES! KEEP HER DOWN UNTIL I AM FREE TO JOIN YOU AGAIN!

WITH TREMBLING HANDS, THE HAG PUSHES THE KEY INTO THE LOCK, FREES HERSELF AND THEN SLAMS THE GATE CLOSED ON THE TURNKEY...

THERE...NOW YOU'LL BE LOCKED UP LIKE MY POOR DARLINGS WERE ALL THESE LONG, HUNGRY DAYS!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! THEY WILL FIND YOU AND BRING YOU BACK!

BUT AS THE HAG MOVES OFF WITH THE PACK OF MANGY, BLOODY-PAWED CATS SHE TURNS AND HISSES A DEFIANT FAREWELL...

YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN! NO ONE WILL BUT MY CATS!

THE NEXT MORNING, THE DETECTIVE RETURNS TO THE HAG'S ROOM, CERTAIN HE'LL FIND THE ESCAPED PRISONER THERE...

SHE ISN'T ANSWERING!

LEAN INTO THE DOOR! THE LOCK'LL SNAP IN A SECOND!

WELL, YOU SURE WERE OFF BASE THIS TIME! SHE ISN'T HERE...NOTHING BUT THESE VILE-LOOKING ALLEY CATS!

YEAH, THE SAME UGLY SLEW OF 'EM I SAW LAST TIME I WAS UP HERE!

SUDDENLY, THE DETECTIVE'S EYES NARROW IN A LOOK OF ASTONISHMENT AS HE GAZES WITH HORROR AT ONE CAT, THE LARGEST OF ALL...

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'D SEEN A GHOST!

TH-THAT CAT... IT WASN'T HERE BEFORE! IT'S NEW AND IT'S GOT A STRAWBERRY CHEEK MARK!

THE END

JOIN US FOR MORE **ADVENTURES INTO WEIRD WORLDS**...IN OUR NEXT ISSUE YOU'LL READ A THRILLER CALLED "I AM DEATH"...PLUS MANY OTHER GREAT TALES! BE SEEING YOU!

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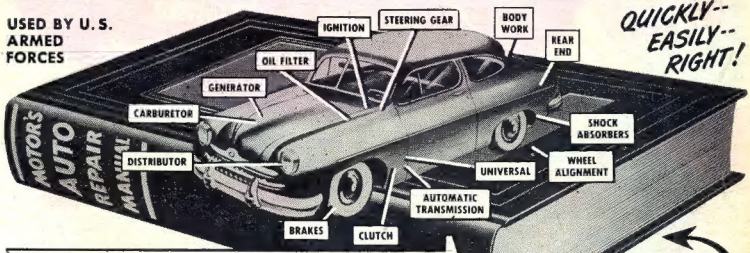

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